Closure of public sector units in Rajasthan Implementation of ESI Scheme

*258. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for the closure of Public Sector Units in the Central Sector in Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal to close any of the Central Public Sector Enterprises who have their registered offices in Rajasthan.

Implementation of ESI Scheme

*259. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the implementation of the ESI scheme is very poor in certain areas because of shortage of drugs and doctors coupled with their indifference and ill-equipped dispensaries, hospitals and rampant corruption;

(b) whether the situation has deteriorated after the addition of about 32 lakh more employees with salary limits of Rs. 1600/- per month to Rs. 3000/-;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard;

(d) whether Government propose to make the applicability of the scheme optional leaving to the consensus between the workers and employer of a particular company; and

(e) whether Government will consider a proposal to make the E.S.I. card holders to get medical facilities from other Government hospitals also wherever the ESI hospital services are not available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (e) The Government is aware of the fact that there is need for improvement in the medical services provided under the Employees' State Insurance Scheme. In the existing frame work, except for Delhi and Noida, the implementation of the Scheme lies mainly with the State Governments. The Corporation has set up a Sub-Committee to oversee the working of the Scheme in the States and to make recommendations as appropriate from time to time. The Corporation also agreed to enhance with effect from 1.4.91 the per beneficiary financial support to the States from Rs. 270/- to Rs. 345/-, Rs. 100/- being earmarked exclusively for the purchase of medicines.

2. The increase in ceiling for coverage under the Scheme from Rs. 1600/- to Rs. 3000/- has been effected only from 1.4.1992. It is expected that with coverage of additional beneficiaries, the facilities under the Scheme will be more cost-effective.

3. There is no proposal presently to make the implementation of the Scheme optional leaving to the consensus between the workers and employers of a Company. The ESI Act however, provides that the appropriate Government may grant exemption to any factory/establishment if its employees are in receipt of benefits similar or superior to the benefits provided under the ESI Act.

4. The State Governments in consultation with the ESI Corporation make arrangements with selective other hospitals to provide specialised services as may be necessary to the beneficiaries of the ESIS.

Family Pension Schemes

*260. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the resentment among the labour about the Family Pension Scheme;